

ZOOLOGISCHE MEDEDEELINGEN

UITGEGEVEN DOOR

's RIJKS MUSEUM VAN NATUURLIJKE HISTORIE

Deel XII.	te LEIDEN	Aflevering 1—2.
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I. — NOTE ON THE GENUS *MICROSICYDIUM* BLEEKER.

BY F. P. KOUMANS.

This genus was established by Dr. P. BLEEKER in 1874¹⁾ for fishes belonging to the phalanx *Sicydiini* having the characteristics: „Dentes intermaxillares stipitati apice clavati obtusi, inframaxillares serie interna parvi aequales, serie externa aciculares. Maxilla inferior cirris nullis. Squamae capite et trunco antice nullae, lateribus 40 circ. in serie longitudinali. B. 4. D. 5—10 vel 11. A. 11 vel 12.

Sp. typ. *Sicydium gymnauchen* BLKR.” (Bleeker l. c. p. 314).

Afterwards in 1876 BLEEKER²⁾ gives the following description of this genus:

„Corpus subelongatum vel elongatum squamatum, capite obtuso alepidoto, maxilla inferiore non cirrata. Dentes, intermaxillares mobiles uniseriati stipitati apice clavati obtusi, inframaxillares biseriati serie interna parvi serie externa labiales. Squamae capite, nucha et regione thoraco-ventrali nullae, trunco ctenoideae 40 circ. in serie longitudinali. Pinna caudalis truncato-emarginata. B. 4. D. 5 vel 6—1/9 vel 1/10. A. 1/10 vel 1/11. Rem. Le genre *Microsicydium* se distingue, dans le groupe des *Sicydiini*, par les caractères combinés d'écailles ctenoïdes ne s'étendant pas en avant jusque dans la région nucho-thoracique, par l'absence de barbillons et de canines, par les dents intermaxillaires en forme de massue et par la caudale échancrée. Je n'en connais qu'une seule espèce, dont je possède

1) Dr. P. Bleeker, Esquisse d'un système naturel des Gobioides in Archives néerlandaises des sciences exactes et naturelles Tome IX.

2) Dr. P. Bleeker, Revision des Sicydiini et Latrunculini de l'Insulinde in Verslagen en Mededeelingen der Kon. Acad. v. Wet. Afd. Natuurk. 2^e reeks 9^e deel.

plus de trois cents individus, mais dont le plus grand ne mesure pas tout à fait quatre centimètres". (Bleeker l. c. p. 284).

Dr. A. GÜNTHER ¹⁾ held the subgenera *Sicydium* GILL and *Sicyopterus* GILL united under the genusname *Sicydium* C. & V. In the same way Mr. W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT ²⁾ unites *Sicydium* and *Sicyopterus* of GILL, *Cotylophus* of GUICH, *Sicydium*, *Sicyopterus*, *Microsicydium* and *Sicydiops* of BLEEKER to the genus *Sicydium* of CUVIER and VALENCIENNES.

Prof. M. WEBER ³⁾ distinguishes again *Microsicydium* as a separate genus. He records, that he found in 15 specimens a small pointed canine tooth in the mandible in both sides, which had been evidently overlooked by BLEEKER. Further he mentions that JORDAN and SEALE in their Fishes of Samoa 1906, have made some mistakes concerning *Sicydium elegans* STEINDACHNER. Prof. WEBER records *Microsicydium gymnauchen* BLKR from a river near Erlalaan on the isle Groot-Kei June 9th, 1908 in several specimens and adds to it p. 46: „Diese Art wurde von BLEEKER nach Exemplaren aus dem Brackwasser bei Menado, Celebes, beschrieben und, soweit mir bekannt, nicht mehr aufgefunden".

Dr. L. F. DE BEAUFORT ⁴⁾ gives a note on 1 specimen of 39 mm. from the river Eme West Ceram, February 20th 1910 (fresh water) and adds to it: „This specimen is longer than either the 300 specimens examined by BLEEKER or those mentioned by MAX WEBER. I cannot find the canines in the mandible, described by the latter author. The colouring of my specimen is somewhat different to those of BLEEKER. There are no traces of transversal bands, but there exists a black longitudinal line, running from the upper lip backwards under the eye, over the base of the pectoral fin and along the sides of the caudal fin, on the base of which the line ends in a dark spot".

I found in the collection sent to the Leyden Museum in 1925 by Dr. F. KOPSTEIN 79 specimens of *Microsicydium gymnauchen* BLKR. collected on rocks in a brook near the entrance in sea on the isle Ambon (Seri) June 25th, 1923. These specimens are in the collection of the Leyden Museum No. 11778 and 11778a. Of these 79 specimens, there are 28 and 9 young ones, which are naked on the first 1/3 part of the body and have ctenoid scales on the last 2/3 part; 42 ones, on the con-

1) Dr. A. Günther, Catalogue of fishes of the British Museum 1861 vol. 3 p. 91.

2) Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, A revision of the fishes of the genera *Sicydium* and *Lentipes* Proc. Zool. Soc. London 1884 p. 153.

3) Prof. Dr. M. Weber, Die Fische der Aru- und Kei-Inseln. Abh. d. Senckenb. Naturforsch. Ges. Bd. XXXIV 1911 p. 46.

4) Dr. L. F. de Beaufort, Fishes of the eastern part of the indo-australian Archipelago in Bijdrage tot de Dierkunde 19^e Afl. 1913 p. 143.

trary, have cycloid scales which are very transparent (12—15 in l.l. and ± 12 on the back between the head and the first dorsal fin) on the first $1/3$ part of the body, the last $2/3$ part of the body having ctenoid scales (± 40 in l.l.). These cycloid scales were only visible, when the animal had been dried up for some moments. The specimens only with ctenoid scales have the pattern of coloration as recorded by BLEEKER, the specimens with cycloid and ctenoid scales show more variation, most of them have 8 transversal bands on the back, on the sides, there are 7—8 darker spots alternating with the mentioned bands. In both groups, there are specimens which have in both sides of the mandible a canine tooth. The teeth in the upper jaw are trilobate.

Examining the specimens mentioned by BLEEKER from Celebes (Menado), which are in the Leyden Museum No. 6191, I found among the 1946 specimens („plus quam 300” of Bleeker!) 1906 ones, which have the first $1/3$ part of the body naked and on the last $2/3$ part ctenoid scales. 40 ones have on the last $2/3$ part of the body ctenoid scales and on the first $1/3$ part cycloid scales, from which in some specimens a number already is fallen out. The animals are in a not very fine state of preservation, perhaps, when this had been a better one, I had found a larger number with cycloid scales on the first $1/3$ part of the body. The specimens with cycloid and ctenoid scales show 7—8 darker spots on both sides, the animals are too faded to determine how the transversal bands are placed. The teeth in the upper jaw of both groups of animals are trilobate and in the mandible I found in several specimens a canine tooth in both sides.

Consequently it is not possible to separate *Microsicydium* from the *Sicydini* on the characteristic of wanting of scales on the first $1/3$ part of the body. Further the missing of canines in *Microsicydium*, as mentioned by BLEEKER, is only a mistake. Consequently *Microsicydium*, is distinguished in the group of *Sicydini* only by wanting of barbels and having the caudal fin emarginate. In its characteristics *Microsicydium* therefore is very closely allied to *Sicyopterus* GILL. The only difference will be the form of the caudal fin, so that I propose to reject the name *Microsicydium* and to unite this genus with *Sicyopterus*. Consequently *Microsicydium gymnauchen* BLKR. will become *Sicyopterus gymnauchen* (BLKR).
